

9₁

- (b) culturing the host cell under conditions which induce expression of the nucleic acid and production of the corresponding protein, and
 - (c) isolating the protein from the host cell.
-

9₂

14. (Twice Amended) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the signal peptide comprises

- (a) a signal peptide coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2, or
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% homologous to at least one nucleotide sequence of (a) or (b).
-

9₃

15. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a full-length, crystalline recombinant S-layer protein selected from the group consisting of

- (i) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence from position 1 to 3684 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - (ii) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO:2, and
 - (iii) a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes with at least one of the nucleic acid of (i) or (ii) under stringent conditions, wherein the nucleic acid contains at least one peptide or polypeptide-coding insertion within the region encoding the S-layer protein.
-

9₄

59. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein said stringent conditions are washing at 55°C in an aqueous low salt buffer comprising 0.2 X SSC.

60. (Amended) The process according to claim 49, wherein said stringent conditions are washing at 60°C in an aqueous low salt buffer comprising 0.2 X SSC.
